

Media Information



Columbus Division of Police

Date: November 8, 2019

Traffic Bureau / Accident Investigation Unit

Thomas Quinlan, Chief of Police

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Ext:

Type of Offense/Incident: Fatal Traffic Crash

Date: 11/8/19

Time: 2:43 AM

Location of Offense/Incident: I-71 (s/b) at Gemini Pl..

Zone: 1

Precinct: 1

Incident Report #: 190940787

Cruiser District: 10

Victim:	Sex:	Race:	Age:
Victim:	Sex:	Race:	Age:
Victim:	Sex:	Race:	Age:

Suspect:	Address:
<input type="checkbox"/> Arrested <input type="checkbox"/> Warrant on File	Sex: Race: Age:
Charges:	
Suspect:	Address:
<input type="checkbox"/> Arrested <input type="checkbox"/> Warrant on File	Sex: Race: Age:
Charges:	

Incident Summary: On Friday, November 8, 2019, at 2:38 AM, the Columbus Police Radio Room began receiving calls reporting a dark SUV driving northbound in the southbound lanes of I-71 in the area of Morse Rd. Within 30 seconds, multiple police cruisers were dispatched to the area. A police helicopter also joined in the search and, at 2:43 AM was able to locate the SUV on I-71 south of Gemini Pl., just as it crashed into a southbound vehicle.

Mr. John Doe was operating a Chevrolet Trailblazer northbound on I-71 I the southbound lanes. At this time, Mr. Jario Villatoro (44) of Shepherdsville, KY, was operating a Dodge Ram pick-up truck southbound on I-71. Also on board Mr. Villatoro's vehicle were Mr. Gregorio Gonnalez Fernando (31) of Jeffersonville, IN; Mr. Herson Pantoja Garcia (28) of Louisville, KY; Mr. Brian Kivas Arias (25) of Louisville, KY; and Mr. Pascal Salor Socop (24) of Louisville, KY.

Mr. Doe's vehicle struck Mr. Villatoro's vehicle, sideswiping it on the driver's side but then continuing on to collide with a trailer that Mr. Villatoro was towing. Mr. Villatoro and Mr. Gonnalez Fernandez were taken by EMS to St. Ann's Hospital to be evaluated and treated for minor injuries. The other three passengers in Mr. Villatoro's vehicle were evaluated at the scene by EMS, but no other injuries were reported by those occupants.

Mr. Doe was pronounced dead at the scene by EMS personnel.

The Columbus Police Accident Investigation Unit responded and initiated an investigation, which is ongoing.

This is the 61st traffic fatality in Columbus in 2019.

Mr. Doe has been identified, but his next of kin has not yet been located.

Copy To: ☒ **Executive Staff**

☒ **Bureau Commander**

☒ **Public Information Office**

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Assignment: AIU

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Approved By: Sgt. Brooke Wilson

Assignment: AIU